

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-15.

Please enter new claims 16-33 as follows:

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16. (New) System for authorizing access to a resource requested by a user, said system comprising:

a first table entry listing a userID and a first name of said user as an individual which validly corresponds to said userID;

a second table entry listing said userID and a second, different name of said user as an individual which validly corresponds to said userID;

a third table entry indicating that said first user name is part of a first group of individuals;

a fourth table entry indicating that said second user name is part of a second, different group of individuals;

fifth table entries listing:

said first name and a first resource accessible to said first name,
said second name and a second resource accessible to said second name,
said first group and a third resource accessible to said first group, and
said second group and a fourth resource accessible to said second group; and

authorization means, responsive to receipt of a request based on said userID to access a resource and authentication of said userID, for determining based on said first table entry that said userID corresponds to said first user name, determining based on said second table entry that said userID also corresponds to said second user name, determining based on said third table entry that said first user name is part of said first group, determining based on said fourth table entry that said second user name is part of said second group, and determining based on said fifth table entries whether any of said first name, said second name, said first group or said second group is authorized to access the requested resource, and if so, granting said userID access to said requested resource.

17. (New) A system as set forth in claim 16 wherein said user submits a password along with said userID, and further comprising authentication means for validating a combination of said password and said userID to authenticate said userID.

18. (New) A system as set forth in claim 16 wherein said first group but not said first name, said second name or said second group is directly listed as authorized to access said requested resource.

19. (New) A system as set forth in claim 16 wherein said second name, but not said first name, said first group or said second group is directly listed as authorized to access said requested resource.

20. (New) A system as set forth in claim 16 wherein:

said first name comprises a first, last or nickname of said user and a first geographic location associated with said user; and

said second name comprises said first, last or nickname of said user and a second, different geographic location associated with said user.

21. (New) A system as set forth in claim 16 wherein said third table entry identifies said first group of individuals by a first group name and a first group ID, and said fourth table entry identifies said second group of individuals by a second group name and a second group ID.

22. (New) Method for authorizing access to a resource requested by a user, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a first table entry listing a userID and a first name of said user as an individual which validly corresponds to said userID;

generating a second table entry listing said userID and a second, different name of said user as an individual which validly corresponds to said userID;

generating a third table entry indicating that said first user name is part of a first group of individuals;

generating a fourth table entry indicating that said second user name is part of a second, different group of individuals;

generating fifth table entries listing:

said first name and a first resource accessible to said first name,
said second name and a second resource accessible to said second name,
said first group and a third resource accessible to said first group, and
said second group and a fourth resource accessible to said second group; and

in response to receipt of a request based on said userID to access a resource and authentication of said userID, automatically determining based on said first table entry that said userID corresponds to said first user name, automatically determining based on said second table entry that said userID also corresponds to said second user name, automatically determining based on said third table entry that said first user name is part of said first group, automatically determining based on said fourth table entry that said second user name is part of said second group, and automatically determining based on said fifth table entries whether any of said first name, said second name, said first group or said second group is authorized to access the requested resource, and if so, granting said userID access to said requested resource.

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23. (New) A method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said user submits a password along with said userID, and further comprising the step of validating a combination of said password and said userID to authenticate said userID.

24. (New) A method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said first group but not said first name, said second name or said second group is directly listed as authorized to access said requested resource.

25. (New) A method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said second name, but not said first name, said first group or said second group is directly listed as authorized to access said requested resource.

26. (New) A method as set forth in claim 2 wherein:

said first name comprises a first, last or nickname of said user and a first geographic location associated with said user; and

said second name comprises said first, last or nickname of said user and a second, different geographic location associated with said user.

27. (New) A method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said third table entry identifies said first group of individuals by a first group name and a first group ID, and said fourth table entry identifies said second group of individuals by a second group name and a second group ID

28. (New) A computer program product for authorizing access to a resource requested by a user, said computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

first program instructions to generate a first table entry listing a userID and a first name of said user as an individual which validly corresponds to said userID;

second program instructions to generate a second table entry listing said userID and a second, different name of said user as an individual which validly corresponds to said userID;

third program instructions to generate a third table entry indicating that said first user name is part of a first group of individuals;

fourth program instructions to generate a fourth table entry indicating that said second user name is part of a second, different group of individuals;

fifth program instructions to generate fifth table entries listing:

said first name and a first resource accessible to said first name,
said second name and a second resource accessible to said second name,
said first group and a third resource accessible to said first group, and
said second group and a fourth resource accessible to said second group; and

sixth program instructions, responsive to receipt of a request based on said userID to access a resource and authentication of said userID, to determine based on said first table entry that said userID corresponds to said first user name, determine based on said second table entry that said userID also corresponds to said second user name, determine based on said third table entry that said first user name is part of said first group, determine based on said fourth table entry that said second user name is part of said second group, and determine based on said fifth table entries whether any of said first name, said second name, said first group or said second group is authorized to access the requested resource, and if so, grant said userID access to said requested resource; and wherein

said first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth program instructions are recorded on said computer readable medium.

29. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 28 wherein said user submits a password along with said userID, and further comprising seventh program instructions to validate a combination of said password and said userID to authenticate said userID; and wherein said seventh program instructions are recorded on said computer readable medium.

30. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 28 wherein said first group but not said first name, said second name or said second group is directly listed as authorized to access said requested resource.

31. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 28 wherein said second name, but not said first name, said first group or said second group is directly listed as authorized to access said requested resource.

32. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 28 wherein:

said first name comprises a first, last or nickname of said user and a first geographic location associated with said user; and

said second name comprises said first, last or nickname of said user and a second, different geographic location associated with said user.

33. (New) A computer program product as set forth in claim 28 wherein said third table entry identifies said first group of individuals by a first group name and a first group ID, and said fourth table entry identifies said second group of individuals by a second group name and a second group ID.